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Communication of the retrenchment proposals to the Members of the Council.

* 494 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of communicating to all the Members of the Council the retrenchment proposals which are sent to Members of the Retrenchment Committee for consideration before they meet and decide about them; and

(*b*) how many times the Retrenchment Committee has so far met and when it is expected to finish its work?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to question No. 345-A. Government do not consider that it would be desirable to follow the suggestion made by the hon. Member. If the intention is that no measure of retrenchment should be introduced by Government without the concurrence of this House, it is only necessary to point out that it would be physically impossible for all hon. Members to consider all the numerous proposals that are made; and the result in practice would be that the object in view would be defeated.

(*b*) The Committee have hitherto held 24 meetings. It is impossible to say when their labours will be finished, but every effort will be made to conclude them before the end of the financial year.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Will the hon. the Finance Member be pleased to place before this House a statement showing as to what are the retrenchment proposals that Government have before them and also the proposals they have already given effect to, and also give this House an opportunity of discussing all the retrenchment proposals?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I do not think it will be possible for the Government to place every question of retrenchment on the table of this House for the discussion of hon. Members. The fullest possible information has been given in answer to question No. 345-A and a communiqué concerning the retrenchment proposals has already been placed on the table of the House."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask what is the anticipated figure of revenue to which the Government are adjusting their retrenchment proposals?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It may be roughly about 16 crores."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Arising out of the answer given by the hon. the Finance Member, may I ask whether hon. Members of this House are unfit to discuss the question of retrenchment?"

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The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" No, not at all. What I said was that, if every item of retrenchment were to be placed before this House and discussed by them, there would not be time to effect a single measure of retrenchment. "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know if the Government are going to give effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee or are they going to make any changes ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I have already said that in tables A and B appended to question No. 345-A, I have given a statement showing the financial effect of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I cannot give an undertaking that Government will give effect to all those recommendations. "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know if there are certain cases in which the Government have not given effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" In many instances the Government have given effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee. I believe there are some cases in which the Government have not accepted their recommendations, and some which are still under consideration. "

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" With reference to the answer given to this question, may I ask whether the hon. Member will not be pleased to give an opportunity to this House to express its opinion on specific items of expenditure which are recommended to be cut by the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I do not think it will be possible to give an opportunity to the House to discuss every single item that comes before the Retrenchment Committee. I presume when the Retrenchment Committee's report is placed on the table of the House, there will be ample opportunity for hon. Members to express their views. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" Will it be possible for the Government to say now whether they could balance the budget ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I wish I could say so. "

Relative percentage of cuts in the salaries of the services.

* 495 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the percentage is of cut in salaries recommended by the Retrenchment Committee and accepted by Government in the case of (1) Menial services, (2) Subordinate services, (3) Gazetted services and (4) Special posts;

(*b*) how this cut works out ultimately in the case of gazetted officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and above as compared with the non-gazetted officers; and